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Preliminary Report on Lumber Production for 1942 in Indiana^{1/}

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In 1942, the lumber industry in Indiana produced 169,349,000 bd. ft. of lumber. This was produced by 842 active sawmills which, with 175 idle mills comprise the 1,017 mills of this State. The first six months of the year witnessed great activity, with many mills producing more than during a comparable period in 1941, or planning to produce more than during any recent year. Markets were highly favorable, under the early stimulation of war conditions. The advance of the year, however, brought loss of labor and of small mill owners through the draft for war duty, and loss of labor to higher-paid war industries, so that many producers fell short of their intended production; some struggled along with partial crews; and others closed small mills for the duration. Furthermore, restrictions proved unfavorable to production, and the necessity of changing from shrinking civilian markets to war markets took time, and tended to reduce production. To some small local custom mills, the shrinkage in stocks and reduction of softwood supplies from the South and far West proved a boom factor in stimulating demand for local hardwoods.

Final production statistics which are now being compiled by the Bureau of the Census and which will be released by that agency in due time, will be based on a complete coverage of the industry by mail supplemented by a field canvass of delinquents by the Forest Service. 1941 was the first year, and 1942 the second, that lumber production has been obtained in the entire State in this manner.

The complete lumber census for 1942 and that for 1941 are highly useful at this time to show closely the impact of war on Indiana's lumber industry. The canvass in 1941, by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; and the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, working cooperatively, and with the Department of Forestry, Purdue University, perhaps showed a normal production for these times. By comparison, the 1942 lumber census, also completely covering the industry in the State, demonstrates the initial effect of this war (table 1) resulting in a lowered production for 1942 as compared with 1941.

^{1/} Preliminary data subject to revision. Final production statistics will be released by the Bureau of the Census. Both preliminary and final statistics are the results of surveys made by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, and the Statistics Division, War Production Board, and with the assistance of the Department of Forestry, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. (for canvass in 1941).

Table 1.--Reported production of lumber, in Indiana,
for 1941 and 1942

Includes production of all classes of sawmills producing 1,000 bd.
ft. or more per annum

Year	Production M bd. ft.	Active mills Number
1941	202,312	910
1942	169,349	842

The State's production is estimated to have declined from about 202 million board feet in 1941 to about 169 million board feet in 1942, a decrease of 16.3 percent (basis, 1941), and the number of active mills declined from 910 in 1941 to 842 in 1942.

In kinds of wood, oak led in 1942 (47.0 percent), followed by beech (11.8 percent), maple (10.3 percent), and elm (5.2 percent), and other hardwoods (table 2). Softwoods made up only 0.2 percent of the total and that consisted of equal amounts of red cedar and Virginia pine, in the southern part of the State, and lesser quantities of cypress, and planted white pine and Norway spruce.

The compiling of county production, by the two mill size classes of 49 M and less and 50 M and over, provides an added insight on Indiana's lumber industry (table 3). To avoid disclosing data for individual establishments, the productions of some counties have been combined. The table serves to show the localities where lumber production is most prominent and reaches greatest importance in the State. There are definite localities where the industry occupies an important position in the economic life of the people.

Table 2.--Estimated lumber production in INDIANA, by kind of wood and size class of mill, in 1942

Kind of wood	Quantity produced annually :			
	by mills producing:			
	49 M & less	50 M or more	Total	Proportion
	M ft. b.m.	M ft. b.m.	M ft. b.m.	Percent
<u>Softwoods</u>				
Cedar	8	106	114	0.1
Cypress	24	5	29	-
Pine, white ^{1/}	3	22	25	-
Pine, yellow	42	72	114	0.1
Spruce ^{2/}	-	5	5	-
Total Softwoods	77	210	287	0.2
<u>Hardwoods</u>				
Ash	141	4,340	4,481	2.7
Basswood	85	2,283	2,368	1.4
Beech	825	19,194	20,019	11.8
Birch (River)	8	213	221	0.1
Chestnut	41	191	232	0.1
Cottonwood	270	5,375	5,645	3.3
Elm	577	8,182	8,759	5.2
Gum, red	79	4,223	4,302	2.5
Hickories	217	5,522	5,739	3.4
Maples	489	16,953	17,442	10.3
Oak	3,546	76,074	79,620	47.0
Sycamore	352	4,443	4,795	2.8
Tupelo, black gum	50	637	687	0.4
Walnut	126	6,101	6,227	3.7
Yellowpoplar	222	7,470	7,692	4.6
<u>Other hardwoods</u>				
Black cherry	4	456	460	0.3
Butternut	-	11	11	-
Cucumber	-	10	10	-
Hackberry	3	173	176	0.1
Honey locust	-	23	23	-
Kentucky coffeetree	-	4	4	-
Mahogany	-	106	106	0.1
Other tropic hdwds	-	17	17	-
Pecan	-	8	8	-
Sassafras	-	9	9	-
Willow	2	7	9	-
Total hardwoods	7,037	162,025	169,062	99.8
Total all woods	7,114	162,235	169,349	100.0
Percent	4.2	95.8	100.0	-

^{1/} Mostly planted trees and windbreaks.

^{2/} Planted Norway spruce; none native.

Table 3.--Estimated lumber production and number of
sawmills, by counties and by size classes,
in INDIANA, in 1942-1

County	Production Class						Active Mills	
	Idle : 49M per year or less:			50M per year or more:			Total:	Total :
	Mills:		Production :	Mills:		Production :	Mills:	Production:Mills
	No.	No.	M ft.b.m.	No.	M ft.b.m.	No.	M ft.b.m.	No.
Adams	3	7	214	5	961	15	1,175	12
Allen	5	14	215	5	1,364	24	1,579	19
Bartholomew	3	6	116	8	2,975	17	3,091	14
Boone	-	-	-	4	698	4	698	4
Brown	1	4	72	6	708	11	780	10
Carroll, Clin- ton & White	6	10	162	5	2,215	21	2,377	15
Cass	4	5	95	7	1,819	16	1,914	12
Clay	3	5	103	4	760	12	863	9
Crawford	1	4	88	6	1,647	11	1,735	10
Daviess	5	15	367	5	823	25	1,190	20
Dearborn, Ohio, & Switzerland	6	10	148	9	4,539	25	4,687	19
Decatur & Jennings	3	3	70	12	1,720	18	1,790	15
Delaware	-	-	-	4	545	4	545	4
Dubois	5	7	177	27	10,321	39	10,498	34
Elkhart	2	5	92	10	4,758	17	4,850	15
Floyd & Clark	7	6	133	13	6,638	26	6,771	19
Franklin, Fay- ette & Union	3	12	256	15	3,977	30	4,233	27
Fulton	1	3	54	5	1,465	9	1,519	8
Gibson	5	3	49	6	577	14	626	9
Grant	1	4	89	-	-	5	89	4
Greene	6	10	243	13	2,640	29	2,883	23
Harrison	-	7	88	10	3,433	17	3,521	17
Henry & Hancock	-	4	98	3	349	7	447	7
Howard, Miami, & Tipton	1	4	38	10	1,807	15	1,845	14
Huntington	5	3	51	5	932	13	983	8
Jackson	4	9	232	17	7,994	30	8,226	26
Jasper, Benton, & Newton	6	11	116	3	430	20	546	14
Jay & Blackford	1	4	42	3	995	8	1,037	7
Johnson & Shelby	-	6	110	4	3,668	10	3,778	10
Knox	2	8	152	9	2,942	19	3,094	17
Kosciusko	1	7	133	7	1,983	15	2,116	14
Lagrange	2	4	78	4	468	10	546	8
Lake	-	4	112	-	-	4	112	4
LaPorte	2	6	105	7	2,166	15	2,271	13
Lawrence, Orange, & Pike	6	4	88	27	8,623	37	8,711	31
Madison & Hamilton	1	4	107	4	510	9	617	8

Table 3 (cont'd)

County	Production Class						Active Mills	
	Idle : 49M per year or less			50M per year or more			Total	Total
	Mills:	Mills:	Production :	Mills :	Production :	Mills:	Production:	Mills
	No.	No.	M ft.b.m.	No.	M ft.b.m.	No.	M ft.b.m.	No.
Marion & Hendricks	3	5	67	3	772	11	839	8
Marshall	4	3	92	4	3,035	11	3,127	7
Martin	1	5	116	8	1,549	14	1,665	13
Monroe	3	5	131	7	1,953	15	2,084	12
Montgomery	-	3	118	4	729	7	847	7
Morgan	-	4	43	9	7,102	13	7,145	13
Noble	3	3	41	9	3,789	15	3,830	12
Owen	6	6	147	13	3,612	25	3,759	19
Parke	2	6	115	8	3,141	16	3,256	14
Perry	1	4	146	11	1,893	16	2,039	15
Porter & Starke	2	3	73	9	1,508	14	1,581	12
Posey	2	4	72	9	1,005	15	1,077	13
Pulaski	-	7	166	5	753	12	919	12
Putnam	2	6	109	4	2,881	12	2,990	10
Ripley	2	11	253	13	4,696	26	4,949	24
Rush	1	-	-	4	2,731	5	2,731	4
St. Joseph	2	-	-	7	2,180	9	2,180	7
Scott & Jefferson	6	7	170	13	2,957	26	3,127	20
Spencer	1	3	98	7	2,161	11	2,259	10
Steuben & DeKalb	4	10	123	8	1,784	22	1,907	18
Sullivan & Vigo	3	5	107	11	2,479	19	2,586	16
Tippecanoe	2	4	72	3	193	9	265	7
Vanderburg	1	-	-	4	8,409	5	8,409	4
Warren, Fountain & Vermilion	11	6	60	8	927	25	987	14
Warrick	2	3	108	5	612	10	720	8
Washington	4	3	71	5	2,894	12	2,965	8
Wayne & Randolph	2	3	55	6	1,560	11	1,615	9
Wells	1	6	118	3	800	10	918	9
Whitley & Wabash	3	4	150	13	6,680	20	6,830	17
Total	175	347	7,114	495	162,235	1,017	169,349	842

1/ Several counties have been combined to avoid disclosing data for individual establishments.

A further analysis of the total production of sawmills whose output reached 50 M and over lends added detail. Mills sawing 50 to 499 M board feet annually produced about 35 percent of the State's native lumber and contained a larger number of mills than any other production class. Those producing over a million board feet per annum numbered only 50, but produced about 45 percent of the State's output. By contrast, mills producing 49 M bd. ft. or less sawed only 4.2 percent of the State's production (table 4).

Table 4.--Number and estimated production of sawmills
by production classes, in INDIANA, in 1942

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Sawmills Number	Lumber production	
		M feet b.m.	Percent
1 - 49	347	7,114	4.2
50 - 499	399	60,016	35.4
500 - 999	46	29,119	17.2
1000 - 4999	50	73,100	43.2
Total	842	169,349	100.0

For 1942, 181 sawmills reported carrying stocks. The data illustrate very well the inroads made by war demands on the regular stocks of lumber ordinarily held by primary lumber producers. The year began with about 27.7 million board feet on hand, but ended with about half that amount, only 14.2 million feet. Indeed, at the end of the year the demand was such that lumber moved easily without air drying, the remanufacturer kiln-drying it or else, in the case of boat stock, using it green (table 5). Additional shrinkage of stocks on hand may be expected.

Table 5.--Number and estimated production of sawmills
reporting stocks of lumber on January 1, and
on December 31, 1942, and the amount of those
stocks, by production classes, in INDIANA

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Mills reporting stocks on hand		Stocks on hand, 1942	
	Mills No.	Production M feet b.m.	January 1	December 31
			M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.
1 - 49	31 ^{1/}	591	597	24
50 - 499	92	19,515	3,380	1,490
500 - 999	25	17,113	3,532	3,270
1000 - 4999	33	60,253	20,383	9,457
Total	181	97,477	27,692	14,241

^{1/} Includes 7 sawmills, idle during 1942, who reported stocks on January 1, but none on December 31, 1942.